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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): WAUMANS, Lars, R., C. [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

(74) Agents: ROLFES, Johannes, G., A. et al.; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).

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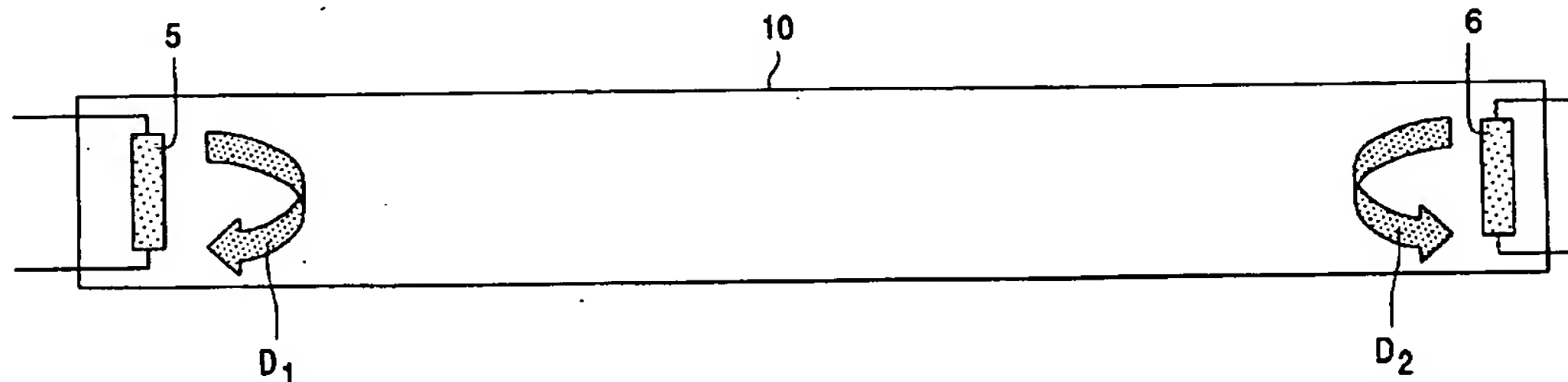
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(54) Title: LOW-PRESSURE MERCURY VAPOR DISCHARGE LAMP



(57) Abstract: A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp is operable in a first mode of operation ("normal mode") and a second mode of operation ("emergency operation"). The discharge lamp comprises a discharge vessel (10) enclosing a discharge space (13) provided with a filling of mercury and an inert gas. The discharge vessel comprises electrodes (5;6) for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space while the discharge lamp operates in the first mode of operation. According to the invention, at least one of the electrodes is operated on a DC or AC power supply for drawing a discharge current (D_1 ; D_2) over the electrode while the discharge lamp operates in the second mode of operation. Preferably, both electrodes operate on a DC or AC power supply, preferably a battery, while the discharge lamp operates in the second mode of operation. The low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamps operated according to the invention have a relatively long life.